

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

State Capitol, Room 113
Sacramento, CA

Minutes of Meeting
June 8, 2006

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Cathie Bennett Warner, Chair
Michele Burton, M.P.H.
Diane Griffiths
Teresa P. Hughes
Vicki Marti

CMAC STAFF PRESENT

Keith Berger, Executive Director
Enid Barnes
Tacia Carroll
Paul Cerles
Denise DeTrano
Holland Golec
Katie Knudson
Ina Pewitt
Steve Soto
Michael Tagupa
Mervin Tamai
Karen Thalhammer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Nancy McFadden

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Toby Douglas, Department of Health Services
Nathan Stanley, Department of Finance

I. Call to Order

The June 8, 2006 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Commissioner Teresa Hughes. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

The May 25, 2006 meeting minutes were approved as prepared by CMAC staff.

III. Executive Director's Report

Keith Berger, Executive Director, began his report by updating the Commissioners that Chair, Cathie Bennett Warner, would be late to the meeting, and she requested that the meeting begin without her since the Commission has a full schedule.

Mr. Berger informed the Commissioners that they had a total of 20 amendments and contracts before them for their review and action today. He also mentioned that there were several negotiation updates as well as several important discussions regarding negotiation strategies, including an extended discussion related to the Distressed Hospital Fund.

As he mentioned at the last Commission meeting, Mr. Berger reminded the Commissioners that the original schedule CMAC issued for the Distressed Hospital Fund targeted final decisions being made at today's meeting. He said that Staff and Commissioners are continuing to spend a considerable amount of time on review, analysis and discussion of hospital proposals, including a significant amount of time in today's closed session. He said that the time and effort involved in fully assessing the large number of proposals will push the scheduled target date to the June 22 Commission meeting.

Mr. Berger continued his report by asking Nathan Stanley of the Department of Finance if he had a brief update for the Commission on any key Medi-Cal changes in the Governor's May Revision, as requested during the last meeting. Mr. Stanley preferred to have Mr. Bob Sands, Department of Finance, discuss this topic at the next meeting.

In conclusion, Mr. Berger was pleased to introduce CMAC's new Senior Negotiator, Tacia Carroll. He said that she was previously a manager in the Cal Mortgage Insurance Division of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, where she spent the past 16 years managing the development of financial agreements with hospitals and other types of health facilities. He welcomed Ms. Carroll, and expressed he was glad to have her as part of CMAC's negotiation staff.

IV. Department of Health Services (CDHS) Report

Toby Douglas, Assistant Deputy Director, Medical Care Services, CDHS, announced that he had nothing new to report regarding the Hospital Financing waiver since the last Commission meeting.

Mr. Douglas gave an update regarding the federal Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 and how effective July 1, 2006, it will soon require any current Medi-Cal beneficiary as well as any applicants who apply for Medi-Cal to provide documentation of citizenship or national status as a condition of eligibility. Mr. Douglas said that the Schwarzenegger Administration is trying to implement this new provision as quickly as possible, but is waiting for Trailer Bill language to be approved by the Legislature, which will implement these new requirements with as much flexibility as possible in order to make it as convenient as possible for beneficiaries and applicants to appropriately comply with this provision. The Administration is also waiting for federal guidance and will need to work with the counties on implementation.

Commissioner Griffiths asked Mr. Douglas the status of the legislation, and who its being carried by. Mr. Douglas explained that it is part of the Trailer Bill. He said they have been working with the County Welfare Director's Association and are awaiting federal guidelines. He said the language of the Trailer Bill was created after hearing responses from stakeholders and that all parties are working to complete it as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Griffiths then asked if the federal law requires every applicant to show identification. Mr. Douglas responded by saying that under current law in California, applicants are not required to verify citizenship, but must show identification. The new law will require every individual to provide proof of citizenship at the time of their initial application or re-determination, and includes the primary applicant as well as all family and household members.

Commissioner Griffiths wanted to know if there would be profiling of applicants in the implementation of this provision. Mr. Douglas assures her that each and every person will have to show documentation.

Mr. Douglas informed the Commission that the Administration is working as fast as they can to implement this change, but it will need time to take all necessary steps.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no further new business and no comments from the public, Chair Bennett Warner recessed the open session. Chair Bennett Warner opened the closed session, and after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Chair Bennett Warner announced that the Commission had taken action on hospital and managed care contracts and amendments in closed session. The open session was then adjourned.